

## MEETING RECORD

**NAME OF GROUP:** OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** June 4, 2015, 1:20 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

**MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Roma Amundson, Mayor Chris Beutler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Trent Fellers, Larry Hudkins and Moe Jamshidi. Roger Figard of Public Works & Utilities; Brian Praeuner of Star Tran; Kyle Fischer of Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; and Mike Brienzo, Kellee Van Bruggen and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.

Vice-Chair Larry Hudkins called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Hudkins then requested a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2015. Motion for approval made by Hudkins, seconded by Jamshidi and carried 5-0: Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'; Amundson absent at time of vote.

### **REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:**

#### **a) Nebraska Department of Roads: N-2 – Lincoln to Syracuse: resurface and widen shoulders, 26.7 miles (C.N. 13263 HSIP – 2-6 (123), funding revisions**

Brienzo stated that we are required to make changes to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when there are changes in funding sources. There are a few changes to note. The first is regarding a State revision. We would like to modify the funding from Federal funds to Highway Safety funds. This is just an adjustment in funding.

Hudkins inquired if there were any pros or cons to this. Brienzo believes it is a benefit. The cost has been revised down to reflect a little savings. Jamshidi talked to our local Federal people. He believes that it doesn't pay to put rumble strips on worn out shoulders. We can use safety funds to redo the shoulders. This gives us more flexibility.

### **ACTION:**

Hudkins moved approval of: a) Nebraska Department of Roads: N-2 – Lincoln to Syracuse: resurface and widen shoulders, 26.7 miles (C.N. 13263 HSIP – 2-6 (123), funding revisions, revisions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Gaylor Baird and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

- b) City of Lincoln: Superior Street, North 27<sup>th</sup> to Cornhusker Hwy: Rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 2.0 miles; and**
- c) City of Lincoln: Old Cheney Road, 40<sup>th</sup> Street to Neb Hwy 2: rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 1.25 miles; and**
- d) City of Lincoln, Streets: North 27<sup>th</sup> Street Holdrege Street to Fletcher Ave: rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 3.25 miles**

Brienzo stated that these will be using urban area STP funds, and will be matched with local funds. Next year or at some point in the future, we can replace these with federal funds. 27<sup>th</sup> St., 40<sup>th</sup> St. and Holdrege Street are proposed for repair and resurfacing, seal cracks and ADA ramps as needed. These projects are added because of federal funding.

#### **ACTION:**

Gaylor Baird moved approval of: b) City of Lincoln: Superior Street, North 27<sup>th</sup> to Cornhusker Hwy: Rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 2.0 miles; c) City of Lincoln: Old Cheney Road, 40<sup>th</sup> Street to Neb Hwy 2: rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 1.25 miles; and d) City of Lincoln, Streets: North 27<sup>th</sup> Street Holdrege Street to Fletcher Ave: rehab and resurfacing project, approximately 3.25 miles, revisions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Amundson and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

- e) Lower Platte South Natural Resources District: Add Salt Creek Levee Trail, N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Cornhusker Highway, 4,950 foot, 10-foot wide concrete trail on the Oak Creek and Salt Creek Levees between Haymarket Ball Park Trail and Cornhusker Highway**

Brienzo stated that the Lower Platte South NRD is adding the Salt Creek Trail levee project. They put together this project and have obtained some resources from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This is a recreational trails program, with funding administered by Game and Parks. NRD is able to take advantage of these federal funds.

Hudkins think this is a good idea. This is something we have needed for quite some time. Doug Ahlberg made us aware that a lot of levees have disbursive clay. He questioned if any levees will be built up when they do the trail. Brienzo believes this part of the levee system is not that deficient. This is not part of rebuilding the levee, just the trail on top. We can ask the NRD to come to a future meeting and address that.

Roger Figard doesn't believe there is any easy way to come in and raise those levees piece meal. He doesn't think we are missing an opportunity. Two weeks ago, the water didn't come over the levees. The storm sewer water couldn't get into Salt Creek. He thinks the Corp. of Engineers and NRD are managing the levy system very well.

**ACTION:**

Hudkins moved approval of e) Lower Platte South Natural Resources District: Add Salt Creek Levee Trail, N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Cornhusker Highway, 4,950 foot, 10-foot wide concrete trail on the Oak Creek and Salt Creek Levees between Haymarket Ball Park Trail and Cornhusker Highway, revisions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Amundson and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

**f) City of Lincoln, Trails: Billy Wolf Trail, #RTP 2014(002), move project funding for construction and construction engineering into FY 2014-2015**

Brienzo stated that the Billy Wolf trail is in the TIP. This is adding the recreational trails program and advancing it one year. It was in the program for 2015-2016. This advances it to 2014-2015.

**ACTION:**

Mayor Beutler moved approval of f) City of Lincoln, Trails: Billy Wolf Trail, #RTP 2014(002), move project funding for construction and construction engineering into FY 2014-2015, revisions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Hudkins and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON 2015 SELF-CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**

Brienzo stated that we go through a major certification every four years. It is a statutory requirement by law. This is a regulatory review. We are held to these ten items to make sure we are complying with federal regulations. We address each of these items and point out any deficiencies. We have been working with Mike Owen from Nebraska Dept. of Roads. The state has been very agreeable on working with us. The statutory review is in 2017. The regulatory review is annual.

**ACTION:**

Mayor Beutler moved approval of the 2015 Self-Certification review that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations, seconded by Amundson and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:**

Brienzo stated that we worked with many different agencies. Public Works lists their projects that use federal funds. StarTran projects are also identified in the program. Lincoln Airport Authority participates in this program. There are no Section 5310 projects at this time, nor any Ped, Bike or Trail projects. We do have an RTSD project. It is a study that is being undertaken.

Figard stated that 77 million is not all intended to come from the Railroad Transportation Safety District. This gives you an idea of the magnitude of the project. The RTSD meets Monday and will have some budget amendments. What is before the RTSD is the contract for preliminary engineering and environmental work.

**ACTION:**

Hudkins moved approval of the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Amundson and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

Hudkins wondered about the work to be done on the N. 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Military Bridge in Lincoln. Brienzo replied that is programmed for this coming fiscal year. Hudkins inquired if it is to be replaced or widened. Figard stated that the work involves determining whether it is more cost efficient to repair or replace it. Hudkins questioned if a determination had been made for a pedestrian crossing. Figard replied yes. Brienzo understands they are working with the state.

Hudkins also noted that downstream from Theresa Street, there is a lot of work to be done on support piers. This was possibly caused by city aftermath of the heavy rains and flooding.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON FY 2015-2016 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:**

Brienzo stated that this is regarding a work program that will be funded with federal planning funds. The state provides oversight. Then we develop agreements with the state to complete this work. The work identified will be supported at 80 percent federal funds. This is one step in the process to make sure we meet the criteria. Then we do quarterly reports on the reimbursement process to ensure we are meeting the guidelines. There are two things. One is a memo from the Dept. of Transportation. These are the planning emphasis areas for this fiscal year. We are addressing those in the work program as well. There are three major areas. The first is the transition to performance based planning and programming. This is a follow-up on the MAP21 program. We are working with the state on identifying performance based goals and objectives. We will meet again next week. We get together with all the MPO's in a coordination meeting. This is one of the topics. We will be addressing this and the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). We are pursuing this. The next item is cooperation. This focuses on cooperating with transit. We work together, they are on all of our committees. The third major area is ladders of opportunity. This is being looked at in the TDP and LRTP. It ensures that the public has access to essential services. We will work with the state on updating our human services plan. This is something we will be looking at. Planning related committees are identified. This will be used more as we update the LRTP. The Citizen Advisory Committee will be used as well. We will be developing more technical tools through GIS tools and staff. We have been working with Public Works on data collection. Our major

goal is the LRTP. That will use up most of our time in the next year. It is updated every five years to keep it current. We are reviewing it in light of MAP21 regulations. The transportation model will be updated. LAA is updating their master plan this year. We will work with them.

**ACTION:**

Amundson moved approval of the FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program, seconded by Hudkins and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

**BRIEFING ON THE LINCOLN STARTRAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) UPDATE:**

Brian Praeuner stated that StarTran has held a couple of open houses so far. There has also been an online survey effort, in addition to an advisory committee that is helping us guide our study. Nelson Nygaard is our consultant. StarTran is being assisted by the Planning Dept. We expect to have this completed by December, 2015. Any route changes that result from the study will be implemented by May of 2016. We have been looking at some specific tasks such as development of peer analysis and different transit alternatives. Will be looking at what we should be doing for our transportation needs. Will be doing a bus stop guideline document. Lots of public input and outreach. More open houses in September. Finalized in December of this year. 2007 was the last transit plan we did.

Gaylor Baird what are stop guidelines. Praeuner today is a flag guideline. Proposing to move to a designated bus stop program. You will need to stand by a designated sign. Many cities have this system. Helps keep the buses on time. A lot of cities our size do it this way.

Hudkins there was some difficulty in determining the new prison, bus stop is nearly quarter of a mile away. Would appreciate that particular stop being looked at. Praeuner will do.

**BRIEFING ON THE LINCOLN MPO 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE AND TRAFFIC MODEL UPDATE:**

Brienzo this is an update of the MPO and traffic model. We are in the process of contracting with Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig. They have a lot of local understanding of our transportation system. There are six major pieces to this puzzle. First, we develop our technical tools. We use that tool to look at our system needs and deficiencies. Safety issues are looked at. Then we overlay that on our GIS system. We will develop reports at various steps along the way. We will develop a needs assessment and performance measures. We have goals in the current Long Range Transportation Plan. We will be working with the Citizen Advisory Committee on developing an implementation program. When we start to program those projects, we will have a direct link. We hope to have a kickoff meeting by the end of this month to present the overall project. We hope to have the tools and analysis done by end of this year. Next year, we

will be working with the Citizen Advisory Committee. The direct oversight team will have focus groups, meet with the business community and identify issues. Those will be addressed in the plan. The target for completing the draft is September, 2016. This will be out for public review and we hope to have it voted on by December, 2016. We are on schedule at this time. We will be developing a webpage for the general public, as well as a webpage for the Advisory Committee. On the internal webpage, you will be able to see all the internal reports and technical input. Any report that is published will be on the public site for review. We are considering using Mind Mixer as well as other social media tools, along with public meetings.

Hudkins observed that last week, people riding bikes on sidewalks in the downtown area. He hopes to integrate bicycle and pedestrian recommendations. It can be very confusing for new people who do not know where to drive or park. Brienzo stated there is more coming, as well as safety issues to address.

**Other:**

- Brienzo printed some information off the State webpage regarding the new gas tax, how it breaks down for Lincoln and the County. He provided copies to the committee members. There appears to be increased revenue or resources coming for our transportation program

Hudkins wondered if we are looking for some ways to help us with the South Bypass, if we should consider allocating some or all of these new funds. Brienzo believes that the funds would be available in January, 2016. The city has already committed resources to the South Beltway project.

Jamshidi stated that it was LB610 that created this revenue. He believes the total gas tax is 26.4 cents overall. The extra half cent in the very first year, cities and counties may break even and not have any extra funds. This is not definite, but there is a chance the wholesale price is going down. This will help balance it out. He wouldn't count too much on any extra funds at all. The projections are to break even.

- Hudkins understands the City met with FEMA and NEMA regarding flood damage. He questioned if any consideration was being given to the issues if we don't qualify. We were told on the County side we may not know for months. The County had damage to numerous bridges and other issues. Figard believes like everything else, there will be some scrambling. It seems like it might have to be part of a public discussion. We are still looking at pavement repair.

Hudkins stated that the County has about four bridges to fix. Jamshidi stated right now, he is actively looking at roads and bridges that are in need of emergency funds. He has been working the last two weeks inspecting with the Feds. Items must be submitted right away. If the County is interested in applying for any funds, they need to call Mick Syslo at the Nebraska Dept. of Roads. Amundson thanked Jamshidi for the good information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.